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impulse likely to triple its usefulness. What a world of good might such a man do with such a use of his property !

We will only add, that our Executive Committee put forth early this year, a circular proposing a *special* effort to raise \$5,000 for a large re-issue of our standard tracts and volumes in order to establish, in different parts of our country, depositories of them from which our friends can be furnished with the best instruments at hand for the prosecution of our cause. We beg an early and earnest attention to this matter. Is it not time for the friends of Peace in this country to imitate the liberality of our English co-workers ? Shall we raise for this cause no more dollars than they do pounds sterling ?

HOME AFFAIRS.

PEACE AND THE PRESIDENCY.—We have seen to our sorrow, especially in the case of our late war with Mexico, how far the question of peace depends on the will of our President ; but it is a curious fact, that our wars have all occurred under the presidency of civilians ; a fact that may well disarm our fears of actual war as likely to result from the election of a warrior to that high office, and should teach us to calculate the chances of such a calamity rather by reference to his character, and to the party influences that will be brought to bear upon him. A presidential election is pretty sure to stir the war-spirit among our people ; but in the canvass now so quietly in progress, we discover less of this than usual, though each of the two leading parties has selected a General for its candidate. A stale, hackneyed device to catch votes ; but the war argument, after all, is losing its power even with the masses, while cultivated minds generally hold it in utter contempt ; and well does one of our editors remark, that “ those who are fearful of the military *prestige* of our republic, may be soothed by remembering that only four of the fourteen Presidents, presiding but seventeen of the sixty-three years of the government, have been generals. Not very bad, that.” No ; not *very* bad, in comparison with other republics ; but most earnestly do we hope, that an end will ere long be put to the suicidal folly of selecting military men for civil offices, and setting aside the most gifted statesmen who have grown gray in their country’s service. The example is bad in every respect, and ought henceforth to be discarded by all parties.

We have lately observed a growing disposition among our politicians in favor of peace measures ; and we rejoice to find the Free Democracy, or Free Soil Party, a small but strong minority, adopting, at their recent convention in Pittsburgh, the principle of Stipulated Arbitration as a part of their platform, viz :

“ That we recommend the introduction into all treaties, hereafter to be negotiated between the United States and foreign nations, of some provision for the amicable settlement of difficulties by a resort to decisive arbitration.”

We were glad to learn, that this was one of three resolutions reported to have been received by the Convention “ with immense applause.” Let us thank God that such propositions begin to waken responsive echoes from

the people; it is the dawn of a new era in the world's politics. All honor to any party that will proclaim as their own a principle so full of blessings in prospect to all mankind; and we would fain hope it will not long be peculiar to one party among us, but will become the common, settled policy of all parties.

IMPORTANCE OF INQUIRY BEFORE ACTION.—There is an old homely adage which bids us “look before we leap.” Were this done in *all* cases, how much evil would be averted? From the report in our July No. of the Committee of Reference respecting “the course of our Executive Officers,” and the statement by these officers of their “actual course,” it appears that the latter had been for years pursuing the very system recommended by the former after full investigation and mature reflection. A little inquiry at first would have elicited this fact; and how much trouble and mischief would it have prevented! How many false rumors, unjust suspicions, and serious obstacles to our cause, would it have obviated at once! We trust our friends will remember this in future.

With regard to the report of that excellent Committee, we will just say here, for the information of our friends, that it contains scarce a suggestion which had not long before been anticipated in full by our Executive Officers in their plans and efforts for the advancement of our cause. Our readers will see this on one topic in what we republish in this number on the “Enlargement of Peace Operations;” and similar illustrations might easily be given on other topics. It can surprise no one, that our Executive Committee, after *fifteen years’* experience, should have anticipated every practical suggestion of importance relative to an enterprise they had managed so long. On every point in that report, indeed, we might assure our friends, once for all, that the more they learn the real facts in the case, the more respect will they feel for the wisdom, fidelity and zeal of our Executive Officers, not excepting the one who has been so strangely censured by a few for performing services confessedly indispensable to the continuance of our Society’s operations; services which nobody else could be persuaded even to undertake; the very kind of services that won for Worcester and Ladd the highest eulogies. Time will undoubtedly rectify such mistakes; but this rectification will come too late to save our Society from the wholesale mischief of crippling an essential instrument of its operations in the person of its chief servant. The evil already done can never be fully repaired; but we hope it will teach our friends hereafter to inquire well before they censure, or suspect, or withhold their wonted aid. We would fain believe that none of them *meant* anything wrong; and, if so, they will now come more zealously than ever to the aid of our common cause, and let there be among its friends hereafter no other strife than to see who shall do most for its advancement.

One thing, at least, is very clear—our Society, after all its efforts for the purpose, should now be left to pursue its work in peace. Indeed, what *more* could it possibly have done to secure this humble privilege? Though there was, as the result has fully proved, no valid reason for such a scrutiny,

Home Affairs.

yet the Society, in a spirit of the utmost conciliation, appointed a very large committee, twelve of the best men it could find, to inquire at pleasure into the conduct of its long tried officers; this committee, in the same spirit, allowed every malcontent to bring before them whatever complaints, vague rumors, or mere suspicions he chose, without even requiring any formal proof of their truth, until every possible point of difficulty, however trivial or merely imaginary, was supposed to have been probed to the bottom; and, after thus patiently investigating the whole case, *usque ad nauseam*, they brought in a *unanimous* report exonerating and commending the accused, which the Society, at one of the fullest business meetings ever held, adopted *unanimously*, and then proceeded to clinch the last nail by re-electing every one of its old officers in token of its undiminished confidence. Now, ought not all this to end the matter? Could any action have been more decisive? And shall not our Society henceforth be permitted to continue its great and good work without further molestation?

OUR OWN OPERATIONS.—We designed to give in detail some specimens of these; but our limits compel us to defer them till our next issue. Many doors of usefulness are open to us; but we are unable, for lack of men and means, to enter and improve the opportunities that are multiplying on every side. The harvest is great, and ripe for the sickle; but the laborers are few, and slow in coming to this arduous work. Our Secretary, when he can snatch from his duties here a few weeks for a lecturing tour, finds an unexpected degree of encouragement, as we may perhaps report in our next; and in such labors there ought forthwith to be employed scores of men besides the few now in our service. Shall we not have the requisite means, and find ere long the gifted and devoted men we so much need for such labors? Let us trust in God for both.

ENGLISH CO-WORKERS.—We have no room for a record of their labors; but we cannot help saying how refreshing it is to observe their boldness, liberality, and untiring zeal in this cause, amid obstacles far greater than any we have here to encounter.

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: *Written in accordance with the principles of peace.* By M. MURRAY. 12mo. pp. 441. B. B. Mussey & Co., Boston.

An excellent book. Not only is it written, as all history ought to be, in the true spirit of Christianity; but it has many other qualities which strongly commend it to general use in schools and families. It is lucid in arrangement, and brief, simple and perspicuous in style. It is of necessity little more than a full synopsis, within so small a compass, of our entire national history, yet sufficiently comprehensive for its purpose, and well deserves to be adopted as a text-book in our seminaries of learning. We wish our land and all Christendom were full of such histories, and only such in their moral tone. Every wise Christian parent will desire such a book for his children.

TERMS—Advocate of Peace, monthly, 16 pp., one vol. in two years; \$1.00 in advance.
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